

# New Great Water Projects

## 2. Ord, Victoria, Daly Rivers.

The Ord-Victoria Project could be one of the greatest irrigation projects in the world, right on the doorstep of Asia's huge and growing population centres. Water expert Prof. Lance Endersbee recommends that the Ord and Victoria be developed in combination, on a vast scale; the Daly River has potential, as well.



Diversion Dam and Lake Kununurra

## 1. Fitzroy River.

The Fitzroy's catchment area is larger than the state of Victoria; in flood, the Fitzroy's volume of water is second only to the Amazon. It has an annual runoff of 8 million megalitres; by comparison, the Sydney metropolitan area has around 4 million people and uses one-half million megalitres a year.

For under \$40 billion (the amount wiped from Australians' superannuation funds by the stock market crashes of 2001), we could build all the great projects pictured here.

The northern rivers in the Timor Sea, Gulf of Carpentaria and North-East Coast drainage divisions represent over two-thirds of Australia's surface water resources, of which only a tiny fraction is developed (Projects 1-8, clockwise from left of map). A great deal also remains to be developed in the South-East Coast drainage division and Tasmania (Projects 9-14), and in the interior, the South, and the West (Projects 15-18). There are many other worthwhile, smaller projects already planned, which should also be built.

## 18. Perth/Wheat Belt.

In the short term, if desalinated seawater were pumped from Esperance to Kalgoorlie, this would enable the water now pumped to Kalgoorlie in the Mundaring-Kalgoorlie pipeline to stay in the Perth area. Ultimately, Perth should expand its supplies through nuclear desalination of seawater.

## 17. Esperance to Kalgoorlie.

United Utilities Australia has proposed to desalinate seawater off Esperance and pipe it to Kalgoorlie-Boulder, to solve the region's water shortage, a proposal most effectively done by nuclear desalination.

## 16. The Finke River.

In addition to his "Bradfield Scheme", Dr. J.J.C. Bradfield also proposed a Central Australia scheme, based upon a series of dams at gaps in the McDonnell-Musgrave Ranges, to store the flood waters of the Finke and its tributaries, the channels of which flow toward Lake Eyre.

## 15. Adelaide.

Like those of Melbourne and Perth, Adelaide's chronic water problems could be easily solved through nuclear desalination.

## 14. Northwest Victoria.

Dozens of dams in Victoria need urgent maintenance or upgrading; the Wimmera-Mallee's open channel irrigation system should be converted to pipes to prevent water wastage; and the Victorian government in 1998 proposed to double the size of the irrigation system in the north-west, to help boost the state's food exports from \$4 billion per annum to \$20 billion by 2010.

## 13. Melbourne waste water diversion.

As an alternative use of Melbourne's waste and stormwater, Prof. Endersbee proposes to pump it over the Great Dividing Range into the Murray-Darling Basin, to open up new irrigated agricultural areas.

## 12. Melbourne.

Melbourne's chronic water shortages could easily be solved in the short term by using stormwater and treating and reusing wastewater, or, in the longer term, by nuclear desalination of seawater.

3. The Roper River has significant development potential.

4. The Flinders River would be a key river in the revised Bradfield Scheme, as the Nicholson and Leichhardt Rivers would likely be, as well.

5. The Reid Scheme, and the Mitchell, Staaten, Gilbert and Norman Rivers. In a project on the scale of the Snowy Scheme, Brisbane engineer L.B.S. Reid in the 1940s proposed a series of dams, canals and tunnels to channel the floodwaters of the Walsh, Tate, Lynd, Einasleigh and Gilbert Rivers into the Diamantina. The Mitchell, Staaten, Gilbert and Norman Rivers, which flow unused into the Gulf of Carpentaria, all have development potential.

## 6. The Bradfield Scheme. (Right)

During World War II and for some years afterwards, the Bradfield Scheme was regarded as an essential step in building and securing our nation, and as the obvious next project to be built after the Snowy Scheme. Beginning in the 1980s, Queensland MP Bob Katter revived the scheme, in a revised form. Bradfield called for damming the wasted waters of the Tully, the Herbert and the Burdekin, diverting them over the Great Dividing Range into the Flinders, and thence into the Thomson, to flow into and fill up Lake Eyre, drought-proofing much of the interior.

## 7. The Dawson Scheme.

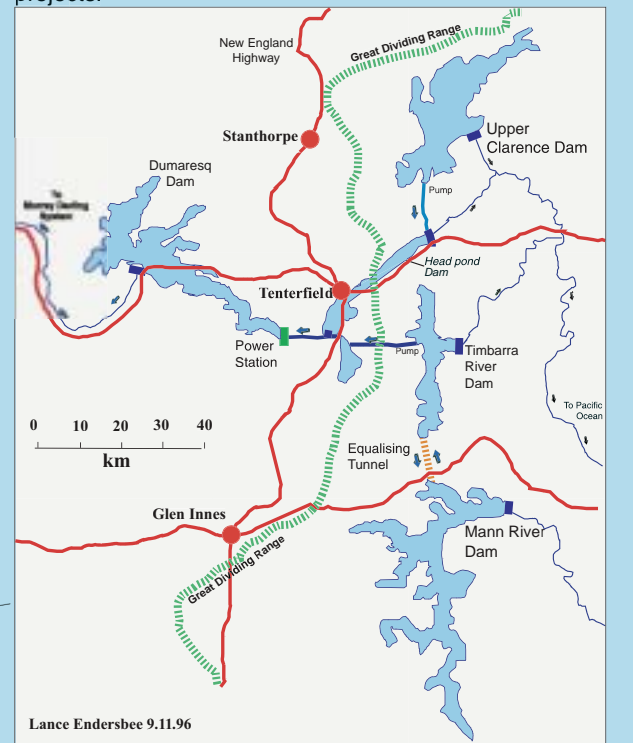
First proposed in the 1920s, a dam on the Dawson could be the centrepiece of a \$3 billion development project.

## 8. The Burnett River Scheme.

A dam and a series of weirs on the Burnett River would alleviate the chronic water shortages in the Bundaberg/Hervey Bay region.

## 9. The Clarence Scheme. (Below)

Diverting the upper Clarence and Nimboia, (and also the Macleay River), with a flow comparable to the Snowy Mountain diversions, over the Dividing Range into the Murray-Darling Basin would open up great new irrigation projects.



## 10. The Murray-Darling Basin. (Below)

Completely new systems of irrigation for the Murray-Darling Basin, which produces 40% of Australia's agriculture and comprises 75% of its irrigated agricultural acreage, could double its existing \$16 billion output, much of which could be delivered by the Asian Express to Darwin, for markets in Asia.

